

# High School 2004 Released Prompt

## Word Choice

### Prompt A

Your community is concerned about the lack of structured activities for youth after school and on weekends. The community leaders are planning the construction of a new youth center.

Write an essay to be read by community leaders convincing them what activities should be included at the youth center. Explain how the activities will have a positive influence on the youth.

Your essay should include:

- An introduction, body, and conclusion.
- A clearly stated position.
- Specific, appropriate reasons.
- Persuasive word choice.

Remember to edit for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

## WORD CHOICE

<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Words convey the intended message in an exceptionally interesting, precise, and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose. The writer employs a rich, broad range of words, which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• accurate, strong, specific words; powerful words energize the writing.</li> <li>• fresh, original expression; slang, if used, seems purposeful and is effective.</li> <li>• vocabulary that is striking and varied, but that is natural and not overdone.</li> <li>• ordinary words used in an unusual way.</li> <li>• words that evoke strong images; figurative language may be used.</li> </ul>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Words convey the intended message in an interesting, precise, and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose. The writer employs a broad range of words which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• accurate, specific words; word choices energize the writing.</li> <li>• fresh, vivid expression; slang, if used, seems purposeful and is effective.</li> <li>• vocabulary that may be striking and varied, but that is natural and not overdone.</li> <li>• ordinary words used in an unusual way.</li> <li>• words that evoke clear images; figurative language may be used.</li> </ul>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Words effectively convey the intended message. The writer employs a variety of words that are functional and appropriate to audience and purpose. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• words that work but do not particularly energize the writing.</li> <li>• expression that is functional; however, slang, if used, does not seem purposeful and is not particularly effective.</li> <li>• attempts at colorful language that may occasionally seem overdone.</li> <li>• occasional overuse of technical language or jargon.</li> <li>• rare experiments with language; however, the writing may have some fine moments and generally avoids clichés.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Language is quite ordinary, lacking interest, precision and variety, or may be inappropriate to audience and purpose in places. The writer does not employ a variety of words, producing a sort of “generic” paper filled with familiar words and phrases. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• words that work, but that rarely capture the reader’s interest.</li> <li>• expression that seems mundane and general; slang, if used, does not seem purposeful and is not effective.</li> <li>• attempts at colorful language that seem overdone or forced.</li> <li>• words that are accurate for the most part, although misused words may occasionally appear, technical language or jargon may be overused or inappropriately used.</li> <li>• reliance on clichés and overused expressions.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Language is monotonous and/or misused, detracting from the meaning and impact. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• words that are colorless, flat or imprecise.</li> <li>• monotonous repetition or overwhelming reliance on worn expressions that repeatedly distract from the message.</li> <li>• images that are fuzzy or absent altogether.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>The writing shows an extremely limited vocabulary or is so filled with misuses of words that the meaning is obscured. Only the most general kind of message is communicated because of vague or imprecise language. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• general, vague words that fail to communicate.</li> <li>• an extremely limited range of words.</li> <li>• words that simply do not fit the text; they seem imprecise, inadequate, or just plain wrong.</li> </ul>

©Oregon Department of Education. All rights reserved.

**Writing****DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

one of the activity are put a room that you can do a commentary about drugs and alcohol.

The youth people can have a room to go people there are in the roads and people what eat drugs. Youth center can have a security.

The center can be open the all hours of day the youth center is good to have many people there introduce drugs and their body this center is good because the state of arizona have minus violence.

The youth center is good to converse with boys there want to know what alcohol are or another drug than the people in the center want to say what drug are to the boys.

The youth center can help the parents to say to the boy what drugs and talk every day about that and the boys

**Writing**

FINAL COPY

young who whoever to exceed  
who presente in the new  
young center for learning more  
to the life.

Only the most general kind of message is communicated because of vague or imprecise language. Repetition of words such as "alot (sic)," "place," "thing" are extremely vague. Phrases such as "eat drugs" and "minus violence" indicate inadequate, imprecise, or just plain wrong word choice.

**Writing****DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

This community needs a youth center for kids. To help better our community, and make a better environment for our children.

This center should have board games, like Chess, checkers, and many other games. This would help children outside of school, and help them get out, and make more friends. This center should also have sports like football, track, and many other sports. This would help children stay healthy to help improve their future.

We need this center to keep our children safe, healthy, and to get them out into the world. So please support this center for your children, and a better tomorrow.

Language is monotonous...distracting from the meaning and impact. The writing has ...images that are fuzzy or absence altogether. Overused words ("many," "children," "like," and "help") add to the monotonous quality of the paper.

**Writing****DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

An youth center is a grate thing to have. You can play sports, games, and just some where to hang out. An youth center should include games, court, tables, and TV. What cool about a youth center is you have a place to go to make friend, have fun, and hang out and have a place to go when it rough. Sport are good to have at a youth center. It grate because if you love a sport you can play it. Its good to meet people who enjoy the same thing. It get you in shape and its good for you. Games are grate to have in a youth center. It grate to have because what if your not good in sports or don't like sport. So you can just sit down and play games. The youth center should try to get a game someone likes. I would go to hang out with friends or family. You could play games and hang out. Or play sport and hang out. You could just sit down and talk. So if you where going to a youth center, Eather to play a sport. Or you can have a blast with the game. Or just hang out with friend. That why you would want to builtd a youth-center.

Language is quite ordinary, lacking interest, precision and variety. While using the phrase "hang out" hints at creativity in using slang, repetition of the slang characterizes reliance on clichés and overused expressions. This paper has vocabulary that rarely captures the reader's interest.

**Writing****DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

It has come to my attention that the leaders of our community are planning the construction of a new youth center. I think it will be a wonderful new addition to the community, but only if the activities offered actually interest the youth. They want a fun, safe place to meet new friends and socialize. Children are constantly on the move, constantly tiring of old activities. I believe that if we offered a broad range of activities the youth would be more interested in visiting the center.

Every child has different interests and we need to support as many of them as we can. I suggest offering a variety of special interest classes such as pottery making, singing and dance classes. This would allow children to express themselves artistically, individually and even learn a new craft. A theater group could also help in improving self-esteem, helping to conquer one's fears and making lifelong friends. It would also cater to a more broad variety of kids.

Sports teams such as baseball, football and soccer would also make an excellent addition to the center. They would give the kids a strong sense of belonging, a sense of being needed. The teams would teach teamwork and good sportsmanship which will be very beneficial in the future. Kids would be less likely to get into trouble knowing they're an important member of the team. The teams would actually compete and games could be held once a week.

**Writing****FINAL COPY**

Dances would be a great weekend activity that could offer a vast array of culture, music and of course dance. It would be a tremendous opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. More social events in general such as community carnivals or auctions would a huge impact on the entire community. They can help to break apart cliques by providing the kids with a chance to actually meet new people they wouldn't have before. I also think the center should offer help and courses in career planning to help send the older teens on the road to a bright and happy future.

In conclusion, I believe that in order for the new youth center to be successful we must provide plenty of activities to appeal to everyone. I strongly urge the people and leaders of our community to consider all of the activities I've presented today for inclusion in the youth center. The youth is our future, they are our tomorrow so please, let's preserve them today with better activities, better opportunities and a better sense of self. Our children deserve the best and I believe this new center will provide that, but only with the right activities.

Words effectively convey the intended message and ... words that are functional and appropriate to audience show ... some fine moments in this paper. The writer attempts to vary vocabulary with word choices such as "broad range," "beneficial," "huge impact," and "inclusion," but they ... work but do not particularly energize the writing. More action verbs such as "cater" would help this paper.





**Writing****DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**Our New Youth Center

There are many activities that the youth of our society would enjoy participating in. However, there are only a few structured activities that will both enhance our children's lifestyles and be liked by them. The new youth center needs to include recreational sports, arts, and music. These activities will give our kids the positive influence that they need.

By having recreational available for our youth, we will be giving them an alternative, so they do not do dreadful things, such as using drugs or drinking alcoholic beverages. Also, they will be physically fit and they will not have to stress over obesity or any other illnesses and diseases. Kids will be confident and have good self-esteem. With ambitious, hard-working children, they will grow up to be the best they can be, which will ultimately improve our community.

Art is a very important outlet youths can use to channel their emotions. There is an overwhelming amount of ways they can be artistic, too. They can paint, dance, mold clay, or even learn yoga. No matter the style in which they choose to be artistic, they will be quenching their aesthetic needs.

Kids should also have the chance to learn music,

**Writing****FINAL COPY**

Whether it be by learning to play the piano or by singing in a choir, music is a vital aspect in a young person's life. Many researchers have found that kids who know how to read music do better in school and receive great grades. Just by looking around at schools you see many students with their headphones on, listening to music. With a music program the new youth center will attract many people.

The new youth center will have a fantastic influence on the kids of our community by incorporating recreational sports, arts, and music into its program. This center will encourage children and help them make better decisions in their lives. With the new youth center, our children will grow up to be great, fair, and smart people, who will be the leaders of tomorrow.

This writer employs words that convey the intended message in an interesting, precise, and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose. Specific words such as "Assuming," "hazardous," "conceptual," "conventional," and "proposed" all offer purposeful tone to the paper. Action verbs such as "realize," "requires," "promotes" energize the message.



**writing****DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

Activities and structured play time are important to the growth and development of children today. Exercise of the body and mind are key in the development of a person's style and morals. In order for the children of our community center to grow and be prosperous in life we should include structured activities such as reading, skate boarding or roller blading, and different sports.

As one of the most important things in any child's life I think that you, as the adults, should include reading in the day-to-day lives of the children at the community center. Reading can help improve the writing capabilities of children later in life. It's proven that kids who read when they were young and continued to read performed better on writing assignments in school. Reading also helps kids develop a creative side. Creativity is very important to writing, performance arts, and any other style of art. Without creativity and books there probably wouldn't have been a Picasso. In order to do all of these the brain has to develop, reading also helps the brain develop. Reading is a key role in everyone's life, it is one of the important ways to communicate and sometimes the only way. Reading should be included in the planned activities of our community center.

Many people would say that reading is boring, so we, as a community, should have high energy sports such as

**Writing****FINAL COPY**

roller blading or skate boarding. The young kids at today enjoy these sports better than some books. Having these sports helps balance develop and teaches the brain to work fast. Kids can be easier to watch if they are having fun so if these activities are included it would be more enjoyable for the kids, as well as the person watching them. It would also entice more children to come to the community center.

Lastly, Sport should most definitely be included in the curriculum for the kids in our community. Lacrosse is a new and enjoyable sport. There should be time for lacrosse because it helps develop hand eye coordination as well as strategy. Basketball is another sport that should be included, simply because everyone knows how to play and enjoys it. It teach teamwork to kids. Finally I think that hockey or football could be added also. Both help develop muscles in the legs and arms. Sports are very important in the activities of kids because it gives them exercise.

Our community center must add these structured activities because without them it will fail. Sports, roller blading or skating, and reading are just a few suggestions, there are many other activities but our community center has to make changes in order to allow kids in our community to thrive.

This paper shows ...a rich, broad range of words which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact. The writer uses ...vocabulary that is striking and varied but not overdone. Phrases such as "structured play time," "to grow and be prosperous," "the writing capabilities," "Without creativity" are examples of ...accurate, strong, specific words.